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# Nationhood?

by Will Nicholls

Do the souls of the hundreds who lay long buried beneath the Plains of Abraham toss and turn in an unquenched quest for nationhood? It's doubtful. Nationhood was the exact opposite of the competing cries upon that battleground almost 250 years ago. Rather, it was the glory of imperial France or imperial Britain that were rallying the troops, be they garbed in red coats or blue.

Nationhood is the cry these days in Quebec, however, even if it has long been denied to the indigenous brethren who stood with both armies at a time their nationhood was still honoured.

The recent motion passed almost unanimously in the House of Commons bestowed the status of nation on the Quebecois (however you define that term). It's a concept that is not unknown or indeed unconsidered. For is not Puerto Rico a protectorate state within the United States of America? Not part of it fully but yet within its union?

It is still able to control its destiny and its future and is this not what all peoples wish?

Then why does the stroke of a pen render the First Nations less than those who were conquered so long ago? Do we have to pick up the tools of war and force violence upon those we willingly shared a future, a territory and now a dream with?

It is a war we will lose but will that give us the right to demand a destiny truly ours? Is the biblical belief of the meek shall inherit the Earth become the precedent of proof of meekness if you have tried force and lost?

Can we not grow beyond the limitations of our darkest truths or beliefs? The limits we place upon our societies and our

peoples will haunt our children for generations. Life is a circle but the circle can become a spiral where it is possible all can grow. The founding fathers could never have founded this nation without the participation of the First Nations. Is it not time to acknowledge we too have a desire to control our future, our ways of life, our culture, our language and our destiny?

As Crees we have no desire to deny others their destiny but wish that the same respect and choices be given to us. No man, no woman, no people can deny these things to another while claiming them for themselves. In all cultures live men and women who believe and live by these concepts. We have all met them and listened to their words. We would all like to believe they are governing forces but know the politics of the day deny their existence in reality. For to accept all of that would mean that all must take responsibilities for the actions of those who have gone before. Therefore the injustices continue and accumulate, adding yet another chapter of denial.

Denial of compensation, denial of resources, denial of genocide, denial of the knights in shining armour we would all like to be and were brought up to believe in. Thus the manipulators can walk in and form public opinion. No one wants to believe they were wrong and their forefathers took what was willingly shared without sharing in return.

And that, my friends, no matter who you are, is why First Nations will not be recognized as one of the founding Nations of this country called Canada. Nor will Canada ever accept a United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights akin to the rights they possess.

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# Shopping: the new reality



I've been traveling quite often to the south lately. Each and every trip, I go to some mall, looking for that good deal. In every mall or Walmart, I've bumped into hundreds of Cree, roaming and searching for the things we can't get back home for the Christmas Season. I've tried to keep track of everybody I see and count them, and today, out of four trips, the count has reached 500 people I've observed doing the quick and dirty down every other aisle, quickly grabbing the precious goods that just can't seem to be bought up north (except for highway robbery prices, less tax).

Take for instance, the Wii, a new game console from Nintendo, (one of my favourite underdog game setups), which cannot be found in any quantity in any store. I just happened to replace my debit card, now worn out at many a retail outlet, and headed out to the nearest electronic shop with hopes of securing the treasured game. Nada, nada nada. No chance at all.

I witnessed a brawl over the last Wii console and after asking the sales person about the chance of getting one, he just laughed in my face like I didn't know anything about having fun. "There's not one Wii left in Montreal and don't bother looking for one because they are pretty well sold out across the country," he declared.

Knowing this, I wondered if I will ever get the one machine I traveled 1,800 kilometres to obtain. I slouched off to look at the unsold Xbox 360s still clinging to the shelves, and winced at the price of what is possibly one of the most powerful pieces of computing power on the market today. What choice but to get yesterday's fad?

Then I discovered Paypal and all the little conveniences that comes with it. First of all, no blisters on my feet from racing around after work to get to yet another store and no body odour from the constant stream of sweat from wearing northern clothing in the summer-like weather of the south. No taxis to be concerned with and no chance of getting lost in someone else's back yard.

Sure, it's nice to take off to different places and meet one Cree after another, some you never see in your home town unless at public gatherings or events. But heck, shopping is shopping. Whichever way you look at it, it becomes a body-wracking expedition that hardy men can barely withstand.

Carrying bags of shopping is now becoming an athlete's ambition, the new training ground for those who portage for miles during summer canoe trips. It provides an educational experience in negotiations (usually referred to as haggling) and a perfect way to learn accounting. Quite likely, certain political expressions abound when the tax card comes out and you learn that it's not respected in this retail outlet, leaving you fuming for that 13.5 per cent until the cows come home.

Whatever way I look at the new way of shopping, somehow I feel that this type of on-line shopping takes the fun out of traveling. But the more I think about it, it leaves more of a chance to enjoy the other things in the south, like movies and restaurants, sushi and talking about the fine art of feng shui, smoked barbeque Chinese duck or just a big Mac at McDonnie's.

I hope that one day, the virtual mall will take over and leave the pain out of shopping in malls.

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# Fried day in Waskaganish

New transformers cause power surge; appliances are toasted

by Steve Bonspiel

For one hapless electrical engineer, it's a classic case of "oops."

"They blew out six houses, all the appliances, everything," said irate Waskaganish resident Bob Black.

Black is upset at Waska Resources, the company contracted to change the old transformers in the community. But he's even more upset at the guys who did the work, TCI and CCI Arnaud.

"Everything that was plugged in got zapped and should be replaced," Black continued. "We've been having trouble getting them to repair it. They're nickel and diming us to death."

Black claims that six houses lost \$200,000 worth of appliances during the November 27 power surge when Hydro was in the midst of upgrading the community's transformers from 2,400 volts to 14,400.

He personally lost his dishwasher, four new DVD players and four TVs, all of which he's replaced, plus his Bell ExpressVu satellite system, the icemaker in his fridge and his surround sound system, which still have not been attended to by Arnaud.

On top of it, he has had to do all the work in replacing and setting up the new items in his house.

"I spent hours doing all this work, they should have had a crew come in and set it all back up. Are they going to pay my labour?" he asked.

Black said community electricians informed him that if everything was not replaced, they would slowly burn out.

St. Arnaud Project manager Luc St. Arnaud was apologetic about the whole mess. He explained how it happened.

"The whole community was fed by the old system of 2,400 volts," he said. "But with the new system, the village will be fed with 14,400 volts. To do the changes, we needed to change all the transformers."

The company thus replaced 60 transformers simultaneously. "Unfortunately, we missed two," St. Arnaud said. "So when we energized the new 14,000-volt power line, the old transformers were still connected. So the houses connected to those two transformers received a lot more power than they're supposed to."

The result was a quick surge into the homes and the loss of everything plugged in at the time.

The change will see Waskaganish households feeding off 240-volt outlets instead of the much weaker 120-volt system.

"We replaced all these devices that were damaged, regardless of if they were able to repair them or not. They were all replaced by new ones," said St. Arnaud, who added that some

appliances were replaced with better, newer models. Those that have not yet been replaced shortly will be.

St. Arnaud said that his company also hired Jean-Pierre Brunet, the band's electrician, to oversee the operation by testing the system and making sure no more damage is detected.

Some of the residents have experienced delays, according to St. Arnaud, because they did not give a list of what was damaged until a week or so after the fact. Contacting the insurance companies was another delay.

---

I spent hours doing all this work, they should have had a crew come in and set it all back up. Are they going to pay my labour?

---

As far as food that perished during the outage, St. Arnaud said all residents have to do is make a list of what was lost and they will be reimbursed.

CCI Arnaud has extensive experience in these types of jobs, having built the power lines from the Nemiscau Hydro substation to Waskaganish.

Another resident affected was Peter Moses. "I wasn't mad, but I didn't feel too good about it," said the soft-spoken man.

He lost his washer, dryer, and stove, which were replaced. He also said that his refrigerator is making a loud noise and is getting louder. Electricians were slated to re-check his house at press time.

Waska Resources' Liaison Officer and Community Relations Representative Ian Diamond said the problems are being worked out.

"The items that were affected are being taken care of," he promised. "Other than that, we apologized. That's one of the errors that happen on a large-scale transition like this."

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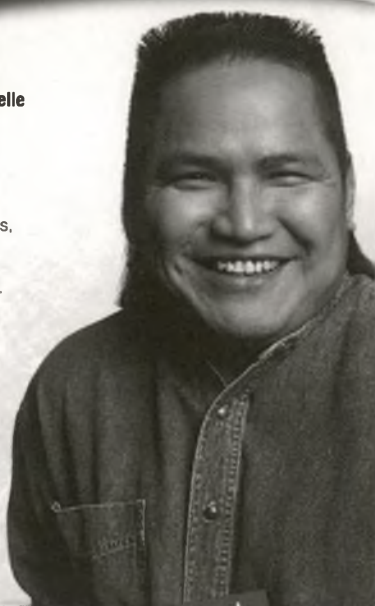
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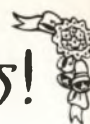
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# NYC Native film fest features Cree and Mohawk flicks



by Steve Bonspiel

Cree Films like *Charlie Makes a Drum* and *The Winter Chill* raised the profile of both sides of James Bay recently as the 13th Native American Film and Video Festival wrapped up in New York City.

Rezolution Pictures International was well represented with two films, *Mohawk Girls* and the aforementioned *Charlie Makes a Drum*. Both films were well-received.

From the west coast of James Bay, renowned First Nations director Paul Rickard brought two of his latest

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*It's great to see the  
amazing talent we have as  
Native American filmmakers.  
And it's only getting better.*

---

films, *The Winter Chill* and *Aboriginal Architecture* to screen as well.

"It's been very successful," said Assistant Festival Manager and Kahnawake Mohawk Reaghan Tarbell. "It's certainly one of the largest. In 2003, they showed 80 to 85 works and had about 120 filmmakers who attended. This year we showcased over 120 works and had over 150 participants come to the festival."

The festival ran from November 30 to December 3 at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of the American Indian. It also attracted Indigenous Sami from northern Norway, Native Hawaiians and Maori from New Zealand.

A large contingent of South American artists from countries like Guatemala and Bolivia also attended and displayed their films. They shared their songs and participated in panels to teach more people about their plight at home.

"There is a lot of networking that goes on world wide," said Tarbell. "When you go to the various festivals, you see the same people everywhere. At the same time you get a chance to exchange ideas about works."

Though the Sami and the Maori were not part of the festival, their exemplary works were still presented there.

Tarbell talked about the importance of the festival and how it has adapted over the years.

"We're not so much just a festival, we promote Native American film and video throughout the year," she said. "We have an extensive website as well. There's so much we do throughout the year that doing a festival of this size is very time consuming and we need a lot of staff resources which we unfortunately do not have."

The amount of work and the relative short staff is the principal reason behind the festivals' appearance every two years since 1979 as opposed to annually.

Although Tarbell couldn't give the attendance figures at press time, she was very pleased with the turnout.

"It's great to see the amazing talent we have as Native American filmmakers. And it's only getting better," she said.

Tarbell is an aspiring filmmaker herself and is currently working on a feature-length documentary as well. Three years into the development stage, *Little Caughnawaga: to Brooklyn and Back* is set to shoot in the summer of 2007.

The film is a take on the Mohawk ironworkers who lived and worked in Brooklyn many years ago. It will be mainly about her family and their history in the area. Thanks in part to the Mohawk society being matrilineal; the story will be told through the eyes of the women.

The next festival will be in 2008 in New York City. Filmmakers interested in participating can submit their works next fall. For more information go to [www.nativenetworks.si.edu/eng/blue/nafvf\\_06.htm](http://www.nativenetworks.si.edu/eng/blue/nafvf_06.htm).



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# New Whapmagoostui Youth Chief says past is behind him

by Steve Bonspiel

Whapmagoostui's band council found itself in an awkward position recently as a 23-year-old youth with a shady past was elected as their Youth Chief.

Charlie Dick won the November 24 election by two votes, 26-24, over runner-up Jessica George. Seventy youth participated in the vote.

A call to the Returning Officer, Victoria George, revealed an ambiguous Whapmagoostui band council bylaw when she was asked if people with a criminal record are allowed to run.

"It doesn't really say, but there is a youth council bylaw that council adopted," she said. "There's something there that talks about criminal offences. It's not really specific."

---

"There's so much life can offer if you stay on the positive side. I want to make them realize how far they can go."

---

Whapmagoostui Grand Chief Losty Mamianskum said the band council would have had no legal grounds to stop Dick from running.

"Our legal advisors were of the opinion that it would be very difficult to apply section 18 to interpret it to preclude anyone from running because it's not in the eligibility provision," he said.

Now that Dick has been elected, however, Mamianskum is rethinking the by law. "This bylaw (No. 74) is really outdated. It's from March, 1998. It's due for an update. And we'll be updating it," he said.

"The constituency is the youth, so we'll discuss with them the updates that are needed. Then we'll revise it and adopt the bylaw according to what they think is fair and appropriate," said Mamianskum, who added that there is a youth council bylaw that would automatically remove a chief or councillor from their position if they committed a criminal offence while in office, but not while running for office.

Mamianskum said that the community would police their new youth chief. "The primary purpose of youth chief and councillors is to be role models for the community. As elected officials we're all responsible to carry out our duties. People do watch what we do outside the office. And I'm sure his constituents will be looking at him in the same way," he said. "Although he won by majority, the number of voters means he's still in a minority situation in terms of the election."

Mamianskum also stressed that if a chief or councillor were convicted of a crime while in office, he or she would automatically be removed from his post.

Dick was reached shortly after the election results were relayed to him. He said that his past is behind him and wished to move on.

"During the elections there were things stopping me from running for chief," Dick said about an emergency meeting the Whapmagoostui band council called to discuss his candidacy. "Things from my criminal history when I used to drink. It's been over three years since I've been sober."

Dick said his past shouldn't stop him, since he's now focused on his girlfriend and their two kids and has put his troubles behind him.

"Anybody with a criminal record, it doesn't mean he's going to stay like that forever," he said. "They should give a chance to anybody who had a bad past who wants to change their lives. Everybody deserves a chance to prove what they can do."

Dick admitted to past transgressions, including theft and assault. He said he was on probation four years ago, but he stopped drinking once he finished paying his debt to society.

But Mamianskum said that Dick's election sends mixed messages and he admits that he has had phone calls from angry community members. His answer was to talk to Dick and "explain to him his responsibilities and how to conduct himself on a personal level."

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"They should give a chance to anybody who had a bad past who wants to change their lives."

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Mamianskum would not rule out removing Dick from office, but said that the band council will be weighing their next move.

Dick said he has changed his ways.

"The main thing that I'm really focused on is to let the youth know that there's more to life than fooling around," said Dick. "There's so much life can offer if you stay on the positive side. I want to make them realize how far they can go."

Dick told *the Nation* that along with not drinking, he also does not do drugs or get into any more trouble. But he says that his criminal past can be used as a teaching tool.

"People mostly see the negative side of it when they talk about it, but there's a lot I've learned from my past," he said. "There is a positive side to what happened. All the things I did are preventable so I'll try my best to prevent it from happening with another youth by talking with them about my past."

"On behalf of the members of the CRA Board of Compensation and CREECO, I wish everyone a wonderful healthy Holiday Season with happiness and prosperity throughout the coming New Year!"

In Peace,  
Jack R. Blacksmith,  
Chairman/President



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# The Matthew Mukash Interview

The Grand Chief picks up his fiddle and plays tunes on the Rupert River, power plays in James Bay and working with Hydro Quebec

*It has been a little over a year since Matthew Mukash was elected Grand Chief of the Eastern James Bay Crees. The Nation caught up with him in Montreal during a Council/Board meeting December 12 to talk about the past year and his priorities for 2007. Those of you with Internet access will soon be able to visit Mukash's own website where he will post personal thoughts and communicate with Crees from across Eeyou Istchee.*

**The Nation:** Christmas is just around the corner. What are your plans?

**Grand Chief Matthew Mukash:** I'll be spending it in Montreal as my two children are here with the grandchildren. On Christmas Day we'll be going to Odanak to visit my in-laws. It's about an hour and a half from Montreal. I'd like to take this time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays and all the best in the coming New Year!

**It's been a year since you've been elected, what has been happening in that year?**

We've done a lot of work. The most important thing that the Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and I had to do was to ensure the ongoing relations with Quebec and Canada continued with the present administration, working together in implementing the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. That was our number-one priority. Negotiations have been going well, particularly, in policing and justice. We've set up a table with Quebec on the access road to Whapmagoostui. Negotiations with Canada are still on-going. We're hoping to reach a final agreement shortly after Christmas.

We have also made headway in establishing dialogue with other Aboriginal First Nations across Canada and in Quebec. Inter-tribal treaties are presently in the works to form political relations and business partnerships with the Crees in Ontario and Manitoba. Our business entities (CREECO) are involved in this and some partnerships have already been formed. We're also on good terms with the Inuit of Quebec.

Long-term plans in social and cultural development as well as economic development have been undertaken. Of course, the planning and development of these strategic plans will require the participation of the Cree communities and their members.

**You've met with the present premier but most of the deals and planning have taken place with the other party so I'm wondering how has that relationship evolved?**

Well, when we first met in March of this year we talked about the continued implementation of the Paix des Braves Agreement that was entered into by previous administrations on both sides. Although the Premier and I are not signatories of the agreement, we agreed to continue with its implementation and the related agreements. We're moving forward and it's going well, in my opinion.

**Has there been anything new that has come out of it?**

We know of some concerns that are forthcoming from the Cree communities. Specifically, there are grave concerns over the issue of the Municipality de Baie James (MBJ). It has been empowered to have authority over Category II and III lands within the James Bay Municipality territory. As you know, many Cree traplines are located within this area. This could be a major problem for the Crees in the future. That has been a source of concern for a lot of people within the Cree Nation.

**What are the priorities of the Grand Council in the New Year?**

The main priority at present is to conclude the negotiations with Canada and hopefully after New Year's we will come up with an announcement. At this point there is no agreement as yet; we are still in negotiations. Those negotiations are progressing very well. We were hoping to have something to announce by Christmas but at this point I don't think it will be possible. We will be touring the communities again to consult the Cree Nation members regarding the development of a comprehensive socio-economic strategy and a cultural development plan. We will also be talking with the youth leadership regarding youth development strategies. These are only some of the plans we wish to carry out in 2007.

**Even though he has a minority government, Prime Minister Harper's priorities seem to be a lot different than the previous Liberal government. Are you seeing this show up in the negotiations?**



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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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Well, it took a long time to return to the negotiating table after the fall of the Liberal government last December 2005. We first had to meet with various federal ministers that work closely with Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, as he was been very busy following the last federal election. We finally met with Minister Prentice in November 2006 for the first time at the First Nations Socio-economic Conference in Masteuiatsh. We agreed that the JBNQA implementation agreement is an important matter that must be concluded soon. Since then a lot of progress has been made.

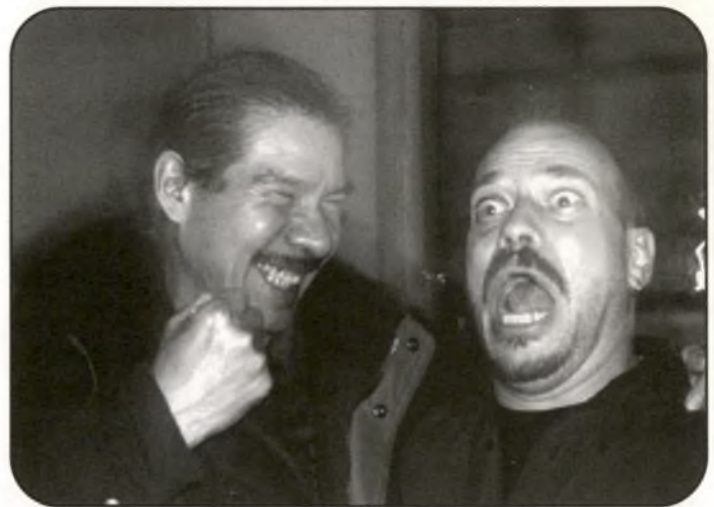
**Three chiefs have held referendums concerning the Rupert River. What are they looking for from the Grand Council and will they be treated the same way as your own home community was when they fought the Great Whale Project?**

First of all, we have to step back a little to understand how this all began. In the 1970s, during negotiations leading to the signature of the JBNQA, our leaders had a difficult time convincing the governments that the Crees were distinct peoples with a distinct language and culture and a way of life. During this time, the governments and the general public were not in favour of recognizing the Crees as such. But eventually the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was reached, which recognized us as having distinct rights and so forth. We were asked to give up certain rights in exchange for compensation and certain protected rights under that agreement. Thus, the principle underlying the JBNQA is that we give consent to development in our homeland in order to receive what we have today. Our treaty rights are protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.

But shortly after the signing of the JBNQA, Canada and Quebec reneged on their obligations under the JBNQA. In 1989, we went to court and opposed all further development in Eeyou Istchee. We actively campaigned against the then-proposed Great Whale Project in the early 90s. And then there were several Supreme Court decisions that were handed down that required that Aboriginal peoples in Canada must now be adequately consulted and accommodated whenever development is proposed in their traditional territory. I like to theorize that Hydro-Quebec and the Quebec government must have realized that it would be more and more difficult to promote development projects in Eeyou Istchee without Cree consent and participation, and thus, came about the Paix Des Braves Agreement. This agreement basically settles Quebec's outstanding obligations to the Crees since 1975 and transfers some of Quebec's obligations under the JBNQA to the Crees. That agreement was accepted and ratified through local referenda in all Cree communities with 69.3 per cent of the votes in favour of the agreement, which included the EMIA/Rupert project.

It seems clear, when you read the agreement carefully, that consent was given to the project but subject to social and environmental impact assessment under section 22 of the JBNQA. Once consent is given to a project, it is assumed that the parties will accept the outcome of the impact assessment whether it favours the project or not. This is why the GCCEI could not oppose the project outside of the EIA process. It's important to understand this.

With regard to the recent local referenda held by the three communities, questions are being asked as to why these referenda were held after the public hearings took place. Maybe I am being judgmental when I say this, but it would have been proper in my opinion to hold the referenda earlier in the process and submit the results before the committees during the public hearings. However, the Grand Council of the Crees respects the right of the local leadership of those three communities to ask their people what they think about a project that will have a great impact on their land, their way of life and their future. We have received letters from the three Chiefs requesting support and assistance in promoting dialogue with Quebec regarding their communities' concerns and, more specifically, to consider alternatives. We're going to be discussing this matter this week at the GCCEI/CRA Council/Board meeting here in Montreal. We'll see what happens after that.



*The Grand Chief meets Lyle Stewart  
for the first time to discuss the editorial*

**What are some of the other challenges facing the Cree Nation?**

One of my greatest concerns is what will happen after the proposed EMIA/Rupert project has been completed. The Quebec government recently amended legislation (Bill 40) empowering the Municipalité de la Baie James (MBJ) with authority over category II lands. The MBJ is now imposing taxes on existing hunting cabins in the James Bay Cree traditional ter-

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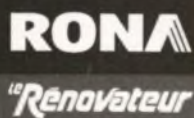
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ritory. The Jamesiens are being recognized as a group having special powers to take control of Eeyou Istchee and promote development. After the project is done, they will be empowered with more resources to do whatever they want. They have already asked that they be granted the right to hunt out of the hunting season granted to non-Cree hunters, and as we speak they are suing us, challenging us to give them Cree traditional knowledge so they can develop forestry resources in Eeyou Istchee.

**Is this in terms of bush medicine or Cree inventions to survive in our land?**

It has to do with our knowledge of the land. If we don't do anything about it in the near future, I predict that there is going to be an aggressive campaign of the part of MJB to take control of the Cree traditional territory, particularly, after the project has been completed. This, of course, is my personal opinion.

**I have to ask: how did this slip past Cree lawyers?**

I don't know. It just seems curious that the amendment (Bill 40) to the legislation I mentioned earlier was made in the summer of 2001, before the Paix des Braves and we only found out about it quite recently.

You know, I remember saying publicly back in the early 1990s that once we're outnumbered in our homeland, there would be forces that would eventually try to take away as much as possible, that which makes our Nation thrive and flourish. It will begin with Category III land and then II, and that once we lose control of these lands, we will then be left with the Category I lands upon which our communities exist. We must not let this happen and that is why Cree unity will be crucial when it's time to address these issues.

**So at this time Indians should be circling the wagons?**

I have a four-year mandate, with three to go, and it's important for me to have good working relations with governments and developers who want to enter into partnerships with the Crees. We can avoid the ensuing conflict if we're unified, and I hope the government is open to addressing the concerns of the communities over these issues. We have mentioned those concerns with the premier of Quebec and he has instructed his ministers to look into it. There has to be a resolution to these issues long before the project goes ahead. There are many and some difficult issues we have to resolve with Quebec.

**So the Rupert River seems to be a focal point for a lot of these issues?**

Indeed it is. The questions we have to ask ourselves are these: If we are likely to lose another major river in Eeyou Istchee, which has been the lifeline not only for the Eeyouch, but

also of marine and other forms of wildlife, are we satisfied of the outcome of the EIA? Have Cree concerns been adequately addressed? Are the anticipated economic spin-offs realistic? Are the benefits long-term? Are we ready for unanticipated negative social impacts? We have to remember that once the Rupert is diverted, it's gone forever. As Cree leaders, there will be major challenges before us and we must be unified in order to adequately address these matters.

**In your community, you've been a Councilor, a Deputy Chief, a Chief, and with the Cree Nation you have been a Deputy Grand Chief, now the Grand Chief. Are you finding there are limitations to the current position you hold?**

Yes, there are limitations; but I think that all leaders at any level often find themselves in this situation. As a leader one must accept that not everyone will support you. Good communication is important. When we came into office, Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and I agreed that in the first year we would carefully observe and assess the organization in terms of its effectiveness. Today, we have an idea in terms of where the limitations lie. We have addressed some, but others will take time.

What is important for us is that everyone in the organization understands that we are all working together for the Cree Nation; thus personal differences must be set aside. We must concentrate our time, effort and dedication to the well-being of the Cree Nation and its members. This is one of the goals of good government.

As far as establishing working with governments, other First Nations, developers and so forth, it is important to be in good terms and always be open to talk. I find that it's easier to talk with someone when they are across the table from you. That way, you can express freely whatever it is that you want them to know or expect of them. It's easier to understand each other like that, I find. That's why I'm all for having good working relationship with those having interest in Eeyou Istchee. I'd like to sit down with Hydro-Quebec one day and hear about views on the Crees and to understand them. Mutual respect and cooperation must be a two-way thing, it's reciprocal.

**On a last note, so to speak, we hear you have an album coming out?**

Yes, it's a fiddling album with old Scottish and Irish tunes. After about 10 years or more of pressure from the elders to record, it has finally happened. I am not a good fiddler; I am an amateur and I am my biggest critic. That's why it took so long. The CD will come out on Thursday, December 14, and will be aired on CBC North. I am hoping it will be available in the communities before Christmas.

## Ka'wahse Street Patrol helping those in need

**Provide food, blankets and a compassionate ear to Montreal homeless**

story by Steve Bonspiel photos by Danielle Valade

The big white truck made stops at various set locations in temperatures that hovered around -17 C, checking on homeless people off the beaten path.

Our first stop in the nine-passenger van with the Ka'wahse Street Patrol was the park in front of the Montreal Children's Hospital, otherwise known as Inuit Park for the large amount of homeless Inuks who call the area home.

Helen, an Inuk from Chisasibi, told her story of being down on her luck. She used to volunteer for the street patrol. She needed money, she said, and volunteering wasn't paying the bills. So for now she stays with her sister nearby. Or on the street when she has to. She has had trouble finding a job in the big city.

The Ka'wahse Street Patrol is an initiative of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal. Almost every week night, the patrol hands out sandwiches, juice, coffee and snacks, and some nights, blankets or clothing as well.

Although most of the clients are homeless, Ka'wahse Director Brett Pineau figures at least 10 per cent of the clientele are "at risk" to become homeless. These are people like Helen from Chisasibi who stays with her sister.

Pineau is a Métis from Regina and has a Masters degree in Business Administration from McGill University. He used to work at a couple of big banks, but realized that he had little passion for the corporate world. He arrived in Montreal in 1999 and has been working for the Street Patrol for a year and a half.

Pineau's philosophy for dealing with someone who is intoxicated and confrontational is simple. "Be their best friend, don't confront them and try to talk them down," he said. "If that doesn't work, I tell everyone to get in the van and we leave."

He says however that it's very rare to meet up with a confrontational homeless person. They are usually very happy to see the patrol arrive, and often wait on certain corners to make sure they get their chance to eat or drink coffee, and more often than you would think, chat.

On any given night 50 to 130 people will come by the van. They range in age from teens to elders.

Unable to find jobs and stuck in a rut, some Crees who come to Montreal end up on the street. A rough estimate of Crees on

the street by Sebastien Papatens, the Youth Outreach Worker who also works for Ka'wahse, is "around 20, 40 if you include those who are at risk."

Papatens is originally from Senneterre, but is a member of the Lac Simon Algonquin community. His grandmother comes from Waswanipi.



The Ka'wahse Street Patrol

"They come to the city to get a place, hit some bad luck and then they're on the street," he said. Racism is also a big part of it as many landlords refuse to rent to Native people.

The Centre also provides help to those trying to make it on their own in Montreal by showing clients how to renew their health care insurance or making a long distance phone call to their home community for free. They also try to help them get a job by referring them to the First Nations Human Resource Centre.

A nurse rides along in the van once a week to analyze the health of people on the street. She looks for visible signs of scarring, pain or even mental suffering. Sometimes she doesn't even have to observe the pain; the people come to her.

"I love what I do," said Nurse Penelope Boudreault, who has

been with Ka'wahse for three months. She works with the homeless as well as for Stella, an organization that helps prostitutes by providing clean needles, condoms or referrals to a doctor. "It's very rewarding, I wouldn't want to work anywhere else," she said.

Her employer, Medecins du Monde, provides vital services like these all over the world.

The centre also gets a helping hand from the Kahnawake Mohawk community. Tota's Tickle Trunk collects various clothing from local residents. Owner Sonny Joe Cross also has a radio show that helps to encourage people to donate items they are thinking of throwing out. Cross provides 50-60 bags of clothing every three weeks or so.

As the van meanders up a street from Ste. Catherine, Michèle Soucy, a volunteer for over two years now, spots a homeless man on the side of a building. She hollers at Pineau to stop, gets out and runs to see what he needs. After the non-native man relieves himself, he says he wants a juice. Quickly gulping down the sweet beverage, he asks for another. Soucy happily obliges.

It's a Ka'wahse policy not to turn anyone down, whether they are black, white or any other colour or race, even though the service is set up for Native people and funded as such by the Canadian government.

"It's about love," Soucy told the Nation. "I love to see their faces when we get there and give them food or a blanket."

Soucy spots another patron, Francine, this time woefully under-dressed and in dire need of a something to keep her warm. Sadly, Ka'wahse doesn't have any on this night. A sweater is given instead. The van drives off and Michèle looks back, her face saddened that she couldn't provide more warmth for her.

"She has to watch how she approaches people sometimes," Pineau said matter-of-factly of Michèle Soucy. "One time she went

"THE FAT CATS MUST HAVE GOTTEN TIRED OF SEEING THE REALITY OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION AND DECIDED TO OFFLOAD IT TO SOMEONE ELSE. THAT'S THEIR SOLUTION TO POVERTY."



The Ka'wahse Street Patrol's Brett Pineau

A clipboard keeps track of the person's initials, if they are Native or not and if they have been referred to a doctor or CLSC. People can remain anonymous, but it makes it harder for Pineau's crew to justify their budget at the end of the year.

Eventually, the conversation in the van turns to the Ville Marie borough's decision to ban people, homeless or not, from their parks. This not only creates a problem within the homeless community, it also puts pressure on other organizations. Homeless people now have to move further east or west or sleep in the doorways of businesses.

"The fat cats must have gotten tired of seeing the reality of the homeless population and decided to offload it to someone else," Pineau said. "That's their solution to poverty."

He also added that Ka'wahse's funding from Ottawa needs to be renewed in March. Pineau is worried because the Harper government has demonstrated it is less open toward Aboriginal initiatives than the previous Liberal administration.

As the van makes its last rounds, a short pit stop is made at Nurse Penelope Boudreault's place of work. A single blanket is found. Pineau rushes back to see if Francine, the woman who was not dressed properly for the extreme weather, is still near Theatre St-Denis.

Michèle Soucy runs out to look for her but she's gone. In the meantime, two more people come to the van for food and juice.

After four hours on the street in freezing temperatures, the back door of the van closes and we head back to the centre, a little more street smart and with a heavier heart for the unfortunate souls stuck on the street at this time of year.



Street Patrol at work

up to a man who appeared to be sleeping and she tapped him on the shoulder. That's very dangerous. He won't necessarily be able to differentiate her from someone who is trying to rob him and she could get stabbed or worse," he said.

As a former personal trainer, Pineau is ready for the troubles that come his way, but he tries to avoid them at all cost.

"We're here to help them no matter what," he said. "If it came to it, we would defend ourselves, but that's the last thing we want to do. It could end up making things worse for those people who suffer from mental illness or depression."

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*Wishing everyone  
 in Eeyou Istchee  
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The members of the Town Council  
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 happiness and prosperity.**

Donald Bubar,  
 Mayor  
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Les membres du conseil de la  
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Plan An  
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**CARRIÈRE ÉLECTRISANTE**  
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## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE QUALIFIED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CAREER CHOICES?

- Apparatus Electrician
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THE NISKAMOON CORPORATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD, WILL BE VISITING YOUR COMMUNITY TO ASSIST YOU IN OBTAINING YOUR CAREER WITH HYDRO-QUEBEC THROUGH THE TEHQ PROGRAM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NISKAMOON  
COORDINATOR OR ANDREA KITCHEN AT 877-441-1101 OR  
ANDREAKITCHEN@SYMPATICO.CA

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4070 Δ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ, 6 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2019 ΔΕΛΤΑ ΔΕΛΤΑ ΔΕΛΤΑ ΔΕΛΤΑ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ  
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Whapmagoostui	Chisasibi	Eastmain	Waskaganish	Nemaska
January 8 AM Presentation to School & Public	January 8 PM Presentation to Public January 9 AM Presentation to School	January 10 AM Presentation to School & Public	January 10 PM Presentation to Public January 11 AM Presentation to School	January 11 PM Presentation to School & Public
Ouje- Bougoumou	Waswanipi	Wemindji	Mistissini	
TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	

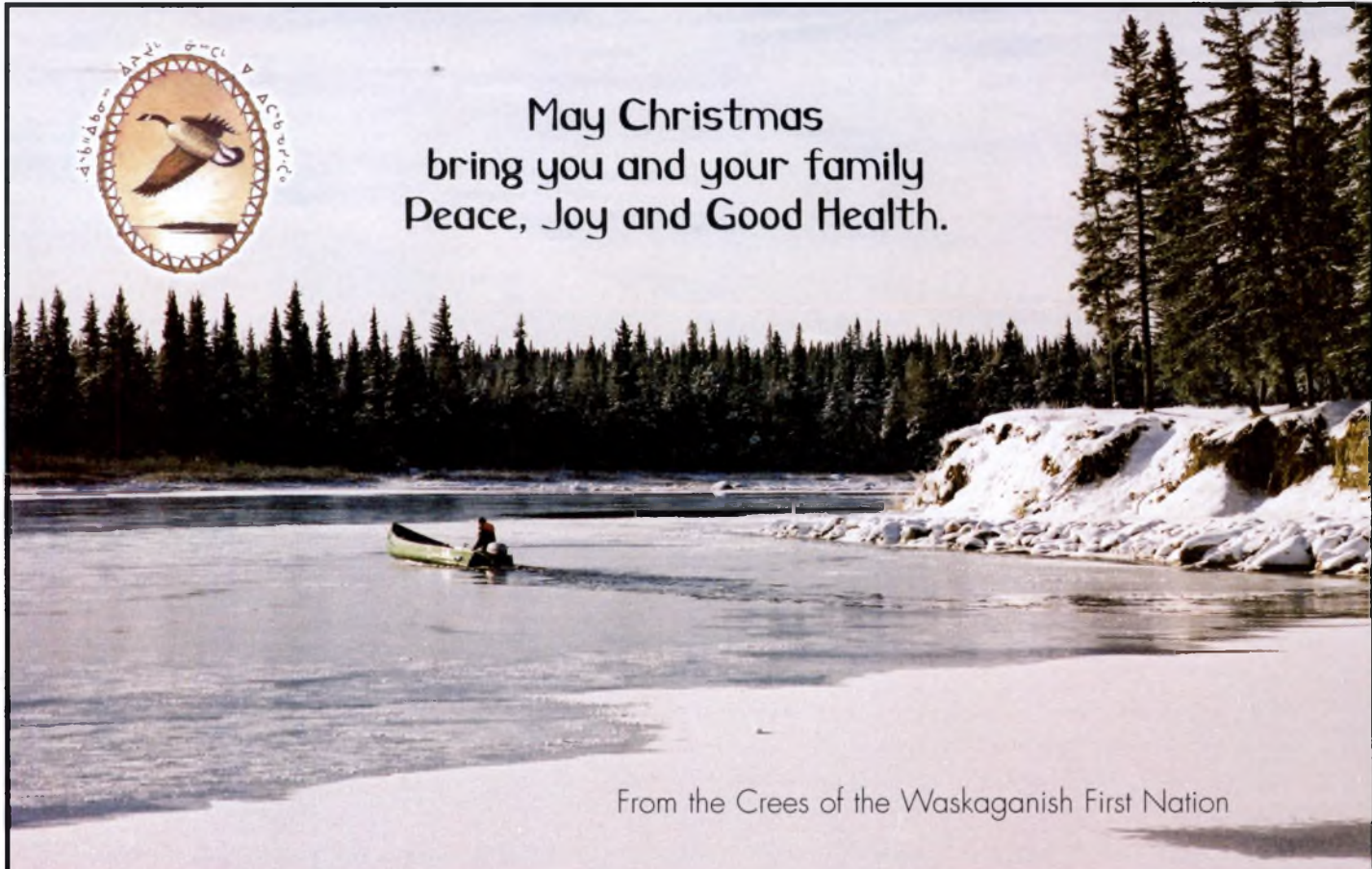
Please be sure to check the next issue of The Nation for the complete itinerary. These dates are subject to change. You may check with your Local Niskamoon Coordinator for presentation hours.

**\*Please note we will be presenting to all  
Secondary 4 & 5 students in each community**





May Christmas  
bring you and your family  
Peace, Joy and Good Health.



From the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation



**Dogs feel the cold too.**

Help them weather winter with  
a warm **dog house** out of the wind  
and lots of **food and water**.

Stop dog overpopulation. Visit IFAW's vet  
clinic in your community this coming spring.



# Your Holiday Schedule!

by Amy German

For many, the best part about the holidays is how everyone comes together in celebration and takes time to focus on the simple joy and happiness derived from reconnecting with family and friends, old and new.

The communities themselves also have a great deal of goings on from parades to feasts to decorating contests and special, exclusive visits from Old St- Nick.

The Nation's Elves have once again done their best to get the skinny on what will be going on in the nine communities, though information from some from some of the communities was not available at press time.

The community of **Eastmain**, will be kicking off their holiday celebrations with the **Christmas Elders Party** organised by the elders council to be held at the Cultural Centre (most likely) December 22. On the following day, December 23, the community will also be hosting "**Christmas on Ice**" at the Stajune River Complex. So bring the kids for some family fun! Christmas Eve will also bring the annual outdoor **Christmas decorating contest** so get your lights and ornaments ready! **New Years' fun and games** will also be held at the complex gymnasium with simple contests that everyone can participate in.

Eastmain also has plans for the following events though they have yet to solidify actual dates for these activities:

-A **Santa Claus Parade** that will this year include a float-decorating contest

"**Community Snack Day**" during which residents will be invited to spend a day of sharing their favourite snacks with the community

The **Annual WETA Christmas Radio Show** – families are invited to air their holiday wishes live on the radio

A **community feast** will also happen at some point during the week between Christmas and New Years, possibly for New Year's Eve.

For more information please contact Jamie Moses at (819) 977-2010 at work or at home (819) 977-0306.

The community of **Mistissini** will be hosting an **Elders Feast** sometime around December 27 or 28, when the whole hullabaloo of Christmas has had a few days to cool off. Not to be missed however is Mistissini's biggest celebration of the year, their now 10th annual promotion of sobriety **New Year's Eve Bash**, proving once again that sober parties can be successful. This year's edition will feature even more fabulous prizes than ever! The bash will host a raffle for \$10,000 worth in goods to make a cabin, a voucher for \$1000 for air travel, tickets to see

Rod Stewart in Montreal including air travel and hotel, a \$5000 give away and the grand prize, a Toyota tundra truck from Toyota St-Félicien. The party itself will feature a big feast, games, dancing, and a mix dance that will feature square dancing and disco. This two-day event will feature loads of party fun on New Years Eve, with the big raffle going down on New Year's Day.

For those looking to help out the needy of Mistissini this holiday season, **The Wreath of Hope Campaign** is still taking donations. Every year, local grocer, Meechum Reg'd, sets up an account where community members and business can make either anonymous or public donations. Says Irene Quinn: "At Christmas time we send out letters to clients and customers and ask for monetary donations for the Wreath of Hope and what it is, is a fund that helps family through the holiday season as well as through out the year." The funds generated are handled by social services and the local CHR in joint venture with people at the band office and then redistributed to those needy from a confidential master list held by social services. Last year about \$20,000 was collected to help families in need and this year the goal is about the same. The baskets will be filled with a turkey and all of the fixings for a Christmas dinner meal, a turkey, stuffing candies, drinks and other gifts along with a voucher for groceries depending on the size of the family.

Those looking to contribute can go to the Meechum Reg'd, 136 Amanda St., Mistissini, to make their donation.

**Waswanipi** has a metric tonne of activities for the holidays going on starting on December 23 with the **Children's Christmas Supper** at the Youth Centre. Santa will be there giving out goodies from his bottomless bag of magic and the whole event is put on by the National Child Benefit Strategy.

On Christmas Eve, a **children's Christmas tree decorating contest** will be held for kids aged 6-12 who want to decorate trees inside and outside of their homes. For the grown ups a **Christmas lighting Contest** for the community, for those who want to make the exteriors of their homes festive. Those looking to participate must register first with Michael Neposh.

Santa will be making a grand appearance in his very own parade on Christmas Day; festivities begin at 3 pm so bundle up the little ones for some family fun outside.

After all of the indulgence of Christmas day, those interested can burn some of it off on Boxing Day during a **family sliding and tubing trip** to Chibougamau. Though there will be a bus to the event, all children must have signed consent forms and be accompanied by an adult. Those interested in this free trip can contact Gloria Joly. Later on that evening at 8 pm, the Youth

continued on page 25



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Cree Regional Authority  
Administration regional Crie

Grand Council of the Crees  
(Eeyou Istchee)  
Grand conseil des Cris  
(Eeyou Istchee)



## Boumhounan Agreement, Contracts Review Committee

**December, 15, 2006**

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority launched on October 18, 2006 the Contracts Review Committee.

The composition of the Contracts Review Committee consists of the nine (9) Economic Development Officers and a Regional Representative for Economic Development. The Chairman of this Committee is the Deputy Grand Chief, as a non-voting member.

### **Mandate of the Committee:**

The mandate of the Committee is subject to the authorization of the EM IA Rupert River Project by the Government of Quebec, the Government of Canada and finally a formal resolution from the Board of Directors of Hydro-Québec.

- Act as the organization charged with the naming of Cree enterprise to negotiate contracts with Hydro-Québec/SEBJ which have been reserved for Cree enterprises under Chapter 10 of the Boumhounan Agreement.
- Act as an intermediary with HQ/SEBJ to ensure the compliance and fulfillment of the contract and employment provisions under Chapter 10 of the Boumhounan Agreement.
- Provide information in the Cree communities as to which contracts are available for negotiations with Hydro-Québec/SEBJ and information on how to access these contracts.
- Provide the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority and Band Councils of the Cree communities minutes of meetings.

**In preparation of this mandate the Contracts Review Committee invites Cree enterprises to contact members of the Contracts Review Committee to gain access to those contracts reserved for the Crees.**

### Guidelines:

## Boumhounan Agreement Conditions

- Cree ownership at a minimum of 51%
- Bonding Capacity proportional to contract
- Ability to respect Construction Schedule
- of the work guarantees such as ISO certification
- Licensing, such as RBQ Permits

## Priority for Cree employment

- Maximize Cree employment
- Training leading to long term employment such as CCQ competency

## Community Development & Participation

- Community proximity to the project will be considered
- Benefit to Cree community
- Community presence

## Process

Hydro-Québec/SEBJ will submit to the Contracts Review Committee contracts which can be awarded to a Cree enterprise on a negotiated process.

The Committee will recommend the Cree enterprises for those contracts to Hydro-Québec/SEB|.



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Cree Regional Authority  
Administration regional Cree  
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Grand Council of the Crees  
(Eeyou Istchee)  
Grand conseil des Cris  
(Eeyou Istchee)



C.R.A.  
A.R.C.

Hydro-Québec/SEB| will negotiate directly with the Cree enterprises that was recommended by the Committee.

### Identification of Cree Enterprises

The Economic Development Officers/Directors have considerable knowledge on the Cree enterprises that exist throughout Cree territory. However any company that is interested in gaining access to the Cree contracts under the Boumhounan Agreement are requested to forward a Corporate Profile to the Economic Development Officers/Directors listed below.

The Corporate Profile at a minimum should contain information on:

- Ownership of the Enterprise (Including percentages)
- Management Structure and identification of key personnel
- Licenses and certifications of enterprise, RBQ, ISO, etc.
- Labour force profile

If possible a brief description of projects that have been executed by the enterprise.

Please contact the Economic Development Officer of your community

#### Mr. Alfred Loon

Regional Economic Development Officer  
514 861-5837

#### Ms. Marlene Kitchen

Economic Development Officer, Waswanipi  
819 753-4000-2290

#### Mr. Randy Bosum

Economic Development Officer, Ouje-Bougoumou  
418 745-2519

#### Mr. Donald MacLeod

Economic Development Officer, Mistissini  
418 923-3461-219

#### Mr. Sidney Orr

Economic Development Officer, Whapmagoostui  
819 929-3364

#### Mr. John Brown

Economic Development Officer, Eastmain  
819 977-0211

#### Mr. Jimmy A. Fireman

Economic Development Officer, Chisasibi  
819 855-3380-26

#### Mr. Thomas Jolly

Economic Development Officer, Nemaska  
819 673-2512

#### Mr. Jack Diamond

Economic Development Officer, Waskaganish  
819 895-8650

#### Mr. Andrew Biron

Economic Development Officer, Wemindji  
819 978-0264-240

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SEASON'S  
GREETINGS!

*The Cree School Board send their wishes to every students, teachers, staff and their families, for wonderful and magical times for the holiday season. **May all your gatherings be filled with joy, love and happiness.***



[www.cscreee.qc.ca](http://www.cscreee.qc.ca)

# SCREEN

# SHOTS

Autumn Movie Lineup – November

by The Shadow Critics



**Apocalypto** – Mel Gibson made the news not too long ago for his anti-Semitic comments to a pair of California police officers. *Apocalypto* will bring him more international attention, but for a much different reason. The movie portrays the Mayan world, at a time in history when many believe the empire fell into decline. There is a great quote to start off the movie on how civilizations destroy themselves from within. However, the story told by the village elder at the end of the day is just as appropriate, and it is about

why man will never be satisfied. The movie could have easily been about how the Maya living in the city forgot their values and all the really important things life is supposed to be about. The film's main character, Jaguar Paw, is played by Rudy Youngblood, who is of mixed Native American ancestry (Comanche, Cree and Yaqui.) He does a great job of captivating us with the journey he takes from hearing the sage lessons his father has to teach him, to actually learning them from his experiences as the world around him erupts in chaos. Although one might take offence, especially if you are of Mayan descent, with the portrayal of the people living in the city, it seemed to speculate solely on negative aspects of the civilization. What about the Mayans' remarkable achievements? Further, there were some events which were a bit out of order such as smallpox preceding Contact. This aside, the scenery was incredible, and the story as it unfolds in the rainforest is amazing. The dialogue is delivered well. Although it is all in modern-day Yucatec (the language of the Yucatan Indians, descendants of the Mayans), it speaks volumes to the audience. The direction is good as well. This movie could be classified as Oscar worthy, especially with awards season just around the corner. The movie is two-and-a-half hours long, but I would have stayed longer if there were more scenes of Jaguar Paw's life on the land. Its familiarity will resonate with other Indigenous peoples even in modern times. This movie is not only a holiday treat, it is one of the better movies of 2006.



**The Holiday** – The movie is best described as a romantic drama. The movie stars Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet as two women who have realized that their love was not being reciprocated in their respective relationships. In fact, their partners seem to have found other partners while still clinging to them for other reasons. In desperation they decide to try a house swap, in which they trade their houses for the holiday season in hopes of leaving their problems behind. Cameron Diaz plays a successful movie trailer editor,

and has a luxurious house in Beverly Hills. Kate Winslet's character is a writer for a newsmagazine, and has a small cottage in the English countryside. Both decide to escape their lives, but on their holidays they find confidence and themselves. It is along the lines of *Love Actually*, a nice feel-good movie for the season. The movie is directed by Nancy Meyers, who also directed *Something's Gotta Give* and *What Women Want*. It is a date movie, and will not appeal to all audiences.

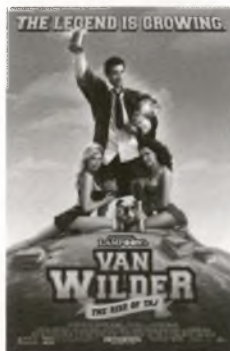
A NEW COMEDY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WAITING FOR GENTLEMAN, BEST IN SHOW AND A MIGHTY WIND

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION



**For Your Consideration** – This movie was written by Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy. Much like *The Mighty Wind*, the movie makes fun of an aspect of the entertainment world. In this case, actors shooting a small independent film have their lives turned upside down when there is talk about Oscar nominations for their performances. The parody of the *Entertainment Tonight*-style of Hollywood news shows is funny, and at times the lines are pure genius for the hosts. This said, it does not achieve the level of fun

and laughs that *A Mighty Wind* or *Best in Show* or *Waiting for Guffman* generated for the same director, Christopher Guest. While the actors and dialogue is good, the plot does not deliver enough to put it into a class of entertainment that it could have attained. Perhaps this was left on the editing floor. One could not help but feel there was something missing. It was an hour and 38 minutes. Another 20 minutes might have made the movie better.



**National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** – Some movie sequels are not meant to be made, although there are always exceptions. *The Rise of Taj* would not fit into the exceptions category. The original, *National Lampoon's Van Wilder*, had the star attraction of a young new comedy actor, Ryan Reynolds, and the already-established Tara Reid as the leading lady. This sequel has a supporting character actor trying to carry a movie. Instead of returning to India, Taj (played by Kal Penn of *Harold and Kumar*

*Go to White Castle*), heads to a prestigious university in England to teach people the lessons he learned from Van, i.e., how to party and enjoy life. Taj is not Van, and cannot deliver the same level of entertainment. The over-the-top scenes, usually present in the National Lampoon's films, are surprisingly absent. There are some laughs throughout the movie but the plot is weak, and the characters are not up to the task.

Will Ferrell Dustin Hoffman Emma Thompson  
Maggie Gyllenhaal Queen Latifah

## Stranger than Fiction



**Stranger than Fiction** – We've previously complained that Will Farrell never seems to do a movie without a scene of him running naked. In *Stranger than Fiction*, he bucks not only this trend but delivers a good performance that is more serious than comedy. As Harold Crick he leads a pretty bland life, counting toothbrush strokes, working as a tax agent, and being alone. It is not until he starts hearing a voice narrating his life that he realizes just how wrong it is. As he puts it, the narrator is right on the mark about his life, but tells it with bet-

ter words than he does. He awakens to the dangers of this telling of the story as the narrator, Emma Thompson, says he will die. He then tries everything he can to live life the way he should have, and question what he thought was life in the past. His guide through this is Dustin Hoffman, as a literature professor at a local college, he is helping to determine whether his story will turn out to be a comedy or tragedy. Will's love interest in the film is a baker, Maggie Gyllenhaal, who he is investigating for tax evasion but she seems to have a handle on how to really live life. The movie is one of the better films in the theatres in the last while.



**Blood Diamond** – Director Edward Zwick, who gave us *The Last Samurai*, does an amazing job of telling an action-packed story filled with adventure, romance and a message. Leonardo DiCaprio is great in the lead role of a diamond smuggler. His accent is so good you would think it was his own. His character grew up in Africa, and after a turbulent childhood ended up as a mercenary in the diamond trade. Djimon Hounsou plays one of the many victims of the diamond trade. He is a simple fisherman from a small village

who is taken from his family to pan for precious stones. Jennifer Connelly plays a hardened American reporter looking for the story that will expose the exploitive nature of the industry, and how it is linked to civil wars and unrest so as to benefit a few. The message is not new as those in the diamond industry have faced scrutiny over the years for their activities in many countries, and reported use of mercenary forces. This well-done movie is of particular interest to Canada as it is entering heavily into the supply side of the diamond industry. As you walk away from the film, it makes you wonder how much influence the industry could have on the government's policy towards Canada's Aboriginal peoples, whose territories host most of the new mines.<sup>4</sup>



## Slow runner

Film that looks at Inuit cultural change  
100 years ago is revealing but, well, glacial

by Steve Bonspiel

*The Journals of Knud Rasmussen* is a unique look, through Inuit Director Zacharias Kunuk's eyes, of the virtual end of Inuit spirituality based on the ancient ways of the Shaman.

Created along with co-director Norman Cohn, *Journals* opened the Native American film Festival at the Smithsonian institute in New York City on November 29. The film gives a heartfelt glimpse into one of the main reasons why so many Inuit became Christians: necessity.

During the early 20th century, the Inuit were barely surviving. As a nomadic culture, the Inuit fought the extreme weather and even more extreme attitudes of explorers and missionaries. Food was scarce.

In the film, based on the travels of real-life traveler Knud Rasmussen, there is a scene in which the Shaman and his people finally arrive at Iglulik. They are told that food would be plentiful if they accepted Jesus into their lives. Aua refuses the offer and tells his people to build igloos away from the village. After a brief argument, Rasmussen and one of his Danish friends head

over to eat, leaving their guides behind.

Aua's daughter, Apak, has an amazing ability to see the spirits like her father does and is seen as special. Iglulik's songs and the smell of fresh meat, however, lure Apak to the faith and change her life when she must choose between her spirituality and life-saving sustenance.

Eventually, starving and faced with a dire situation, Aua himself gives in and eats meat forbidden to a Shaman. From there, the spirits flee and the Inuit culture is changed forever.

Some would say Christianity was a trick. Others claim that accepting the new faith was a good thing that needed to happen. The reality though, is that much of the Inuit culture was destroyed when the white missionaries came north.

The story is based around Rasmussen, a Dane who is welcomed into Aua's village, partially because he speaks their language. He asks them to take him on a journey to Iglulik. Despite many obstacles and horrible weather and near starvation, Rasmussen is insistent that they press on.

It tells a story only an Inuit director can. It shows the light heartedness of the people and gives them character. This movie could not have been made (or it would not have been made as it was) without an Inuk touch.

Unfortunately a snowstorm kept Kunuk from attending during the screening in New York City. Also unfortunate were the problems with the sound, due to faulty equipment, and some scenes that were too dark, presumably because of bad lighting during the shoot.

Another thing that struck me about the latest film from the directors who brought us *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* was the speed. It snakes along at a rather tepid pace and the thought that it was a slow runner popped into my head a few times. The best way to describe the pace is deliberate.

There is also a mention of a white man being murdered. Eventually we find out who did it, but the drama was lost on most of the audience. It seemed like an afterthought rather than an integral part of the story.

Although visually alluring and, at times fun to watch, *Journals* will probably only be able to make a limited run in theatres. Southern audiences just won't get the message. Five people left 10 minutes before the end, possibly due to other engagements, but probably due to their inability to relate. At the beginning, one of the representatives for the film said "you'll either like it from the start or you'll never get it." Unfortunately the latter sounds about right for much of the target audience.

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### Your Holiday Schedule continued from page 19

Center will be hosting a **Christmas Concert**, contact Michael Neposh for the details.

On December 27 the Cultural Department will be hosting a **rabbit dumpling workshop** sponsored by Bio-Features at 10 am.

The youths have their own dinner at the Youth Centre December 27 that is open to all youth in the community aged 13-18. The following night, the 28th, will be the (catered) **Elders Feast**. The feast will feature fiddle music and dancing and Santa will also making an appearance with gifts for everyone. This free and alcohol-free event is open to everyone.

On December 29 a "**Pitoune**" tournament will be held at the arena at 10 am. For those who are not in the know, Pitoune is hockey played in broom-ball shoes. Those interested can contact Wallace Rogers.

A "**Bon Attente**" mix-group-families-all-ages hockey tournament will be held December 30 at the arena at 10 am so bring everyone and join in.

For New Year's Eve there will be **children's activities held at the Youth Centre** starting at 3 pm and at night the **Silver Band** will be playing. This year's party is also promising big prize giveaways and the whole community is invited.

Community events continue after New Year's Day with a **Community Activity Day** scheduled for January 2 featuring soup and bannock for everyone and a **family snow contest and sliding for kids** at the cultural site followed by **Karaoke** in the evening. January 3 from 10 am-6 pm Waswanipi will be hosting a **co-ed broom-ball tournament** for the whole family and everyone is invited.

Last but not least, starting at 8 pm January 4 the community will also be hosting a **couples night** featuring, games and prizes for the lovebirds of the community.

The community of **Wemindji** has a whole slew of community events planned for the holiday season, kicking it off December 20 with the **Santa Claus Parade**. Float preparation starts at 10 am and at lunchtime the parade goes around the village till it reaches the community hall, where the judging for the floats will take place. Fun and games will go on all afternoon once the judging is over.

December 21 Santa will be making another appearance at the **children's colouring and skating party**. There will be a colouring contest for the kids and at noon, small lunch at the community hall and at 1:30 pm people are invited to come in with skates at the arena and skate with Santa all afternoon till 4 pm.

On December 22, registration will take place for the **Christmas lights contest** in a miniature village contest, which is open to all community residents. Community members are encouraged to decorate their house with lights and make miniature villages in their front yards in a winter design theme made from snow or branches. Registration is all day from 10 am-6 pm when the judging begins.

Though there will most probably be other activities during the week, the next big event in Wemindji is the "**New Year's Extravaganza**." It's a 12-hour event that will feature a multitude of different activities from fun and games to karaoke, local performers singing and two special performances by Hotel California, an Eagles tribute band at 10 pm and 1 am. There will be prizes given away every hour on the hour and the later it gets, the bigger and better the prize. This is an alcohol-free party that the whole community of Wemindji is welcome to. For more information contact Brian Ottereyes at the band office.

Community listings were not available at press time for Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi, Nemaska, Ouje-Bougoumou or Waskaganish.



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

*The holidays are here!  
A time to celebrate and be merry, a time to  
gather with family and friends and share good  
food, laughter and love. We wish everyone in  
Eeyou Istchee to have a safe and joyous  
holiday season and a prosperous  
New Year for 2007.*

From the *Whapmagoostui* First Nation



Mandow Inn  
Eastmain, Quebec  
(819) 977-2050

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to all!

COME STAY WITH US IN 2007!





# White meat? or dark?

*Cooking for the holidays is a complicated chore for Cree families with diabetic members. Here's some help:*

**W**hile the rest of the world crams just about every single fatty, greasy, rich, sugar-laden, indulgent morsel of holiday food down their throats as though it were their last meal, those with diabetes or other dietary restrictions due to obesity can sometimes feel left out. There is no doubt about it, Christmas holidays are a time where we crave all of the season's flavours and it just wouldn't be Christmas without a turkey or ham, all of the trimmings and of course sweets!

It does not mean however that someone with a diabetic blood sugar reading can't participate in a Christmas feast, diabetics walk among all of us every day and eat most of the same things that we all do. They just do it smarter. The basic principle to following the diabetic diet is to do it low-sugar and replace high glucose, quick-burning foods with foods that will burn slower and keep blood sugar from spiking. So, think less sugar, less white flour and if you are trying to lose weight to keep your blood sugar under control, try and lower the fat content as well. The diabetic diet is an extremely healthy diet that some people follow even if they don't have the disease, simply because it's so healthy. Though if someone's diabetes is already under control, small portions of sweet foods can be substituted for carbohydrate foods in a diabetics food plan but if on the other hand they are newly diagnosed, its time to proceed with caution.

If you are newly diagnosed and are doing a big holiday meal for the first time or are serving a holiday meal to a diabetic crowd, have a look at some of the recipes and suggestions that we have compiled below.

## THE BIRD!

Believe it or not, turkey has become one of 2006's trendiest foods and nutritionists from far and wide are touting its virtues. Turkey is low fat and highly nutritious, more so than chicken and if available in your grocery store year round, is a great alternative to the standard poultry. The best part about a turkey is that all you really need do is put it in the oven at around 325 F and let it cook depending on the size. The drippings that we end up turning into gravy are much fattier so if you want to go very lean, consider discarding the drippings and make gravy from a packet. Also, if you are trying to cut back on calories, eat only the white meat – this isn't a matter of turkey racism – the dark meat is higher in fat and avoid the skin. Should you want to go it a little fancier, however, instead of flavouring your turkey with butter under the skin, use herbs, fresh or dry, dried mushroom or the clean taste of lemon or lime.

### Herb-Roasted Christmas Turkey with Citrus-y Glaze

You will need:

- 1 15-pound whole turkey (thawed)
- 3 large lemons
- 2 large limes

1-1/2 teaspoon salt, divided

1/2-teaspoon black pepper coarsely ground

1/4-cup dry white wine or substitute (for non-alcoholic wine, use white grape juice diluted with white wine vinegar.)

1/4 cup packed brown sugar

Pan gravy

1 bunch, each fresh sage, marjoram, and thyme, divided

Instructions:

- 1) Remove giblets and neck from turkey and put aside to make the gravy later. Rinse turkey with cold running water and drain well. Blot the turkey dry with paper towels.
- 2) Squeeze out two tablespoons of lemon juice and two tablespoons of lime juice each.
- 3) Cut the remaining lemons and limes in half and place in the turkey cavity. Sprinkle a pinch of salt into the cavity.
- 4) In a small bowl, mix the wine (or substitute), brown sugar, and citrus juices; reserve for glaze.
- 5) Gently loosen skin from the turkey breast without totally detaching the skin and carefully place 1 tablespoon each fresh sage and marjoram under the skin. Replace the skin. If using dried herbs follow the same process but if available, fresh are best.

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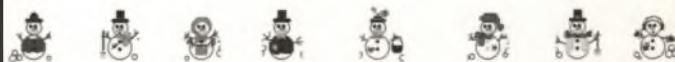
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6) Fold neck skin and fasten to the back with 1 or 2 skewers or sew shut if you don't have skewers. Fold the wings under the back of the turkey. Return legs to tucked position.

7) Place turkey, breast side up, on a rack in a large shallow (about 2-1/2 inches deep) roasting pan. Rub turkey with salt, pepper, and 2 to 3 tablespoons of salad oil. Insert oven-safe meat thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh, being careful that the pointed end of the thermometer does not touch the bone.

8) Roast the turkey in a preheated 325 degree F oven about 3-3/4 hours. During the last hour of roasting time, baste with the pan drippings. During the last 30 minutes, baste with the citrus glaze. Loosely cover with lightweight foil to prevent excessive browning. Continue to roast until the thermometer registers 180 degrees F. in the thigh, or 170 degrees F. in the breast.

9) Remove turkey from the oven and allow it to rest for 15-20 minutes before carving.

10) Serve turkey to a happy audience!

Note: To substitute for the white wine in this recipe non-alcoholic wine or white grape juice diluted with white wine vinegar can both be used.

Recipe yields 22 6-ounce servings, 362 calories per serving, 50 grams of protein, 233 mg of sodium, 145 mg of cholesterol, 16 grams of fat and 1 gram of carbohydrates.

Though the stuffing is often a favourite for many, outside of the turkey gravy this can be one of the most fat-, sodium- and carbohydrate-laden aspects of the holiday meal. Bread-based and sausage bread-based stuffings are popular as are those made with dried fruit or nuts. One of the most basic things that can be done to make a stuffing diabetic friendly is to replace the white bread with whole grain bread, cutting down on bad carbohydrates. To cut down on calories, cook your stuffing outside of the bird as opposed to inside where it is likely to soak up a lot of fat. Of course, should you want to cut out all of the badness altogether, try this delightful fresh cranberry and wild rice stuffing, not only is it delightfully flavourful, as cranberries are already a big part of it, it cancels out the need for ultra sugary cranberry sauce.

## Fresh Cranberry and Wild Rice Stuffing

You will need:

- 1/2 cup wild rice, uncooked
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup raisins, dark or golden
- 5 scallions, chopped
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil, canola works best
- 1/2 cup celery,
- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- 1 tablespoon orange rind-grated
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

Instructions:

Put the wild rice in a saucepan.

Add the water and raisins and cook over medium heat for 1 hour, or until the rice is tender. Drain.

Sauté the onions and celery in the oil until tender.

Add the cranberries, orange rind, thyme and rice.

Serve alongside a glorious turkey!

Calories: 135

Sodium: 111 mg

Cholesterol: 1 mg

Fat: 2 g

Carbohydrates: 26 g

Exchanges: 2 starch/bread

Try this online recipe for a more traditional stuffing recipe using whole wheat bread:

<http://www.dlife.com/dLife/do/recipe/ShowRecipe?recipeId=1514>

## THE VEGETABLES:

Veggies are good for everybody and they should be on your plate as often as possible, particularly if you are a diabetic. If you are preparing Christmas dinner for a diabetic, high-fibre veggies are the perfect accompaniment as high-fibre foods such as broccoli, sweet potatoes and green peas contain soluble fibres that can help control increases in blood sugar levels. The same principal applies if you are going to be serving bread rolls with your turkey, go it whole grain.

Mashed potatoes are another holiday dinner table staple and traditionally they are as butter laden as possible. However, they do contain a lot of fat, which can be detrimental for someone on the arduous road to weight loss. Fortunately, as la patate is an entirely versatile starch, mashed potatoes can be made low fat.

## Mashed Potatoes, Light

You will need:

- 2 lbs peeled and quartered potatoes
- 1/2 cup fat-free sour cream
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp white pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg (optional)

Instructions:

- 1) Peel and quarter potatoes. Boil until tender
- 2) Drain potatoes and transfer to a large mixing bowl
- 3) On low speed begin whipping potatoes
- 4) Slowly add sour cream and chicken broth
- 5) Add salt, pepper and nutmeg
- 6) Increase speed of mixer and whip potatoes until reaching desired consistency

Recipe yields about 8 - 9 cup servings, 113 calories per serving, 17 grams of fat and 4.97 grams of protein.

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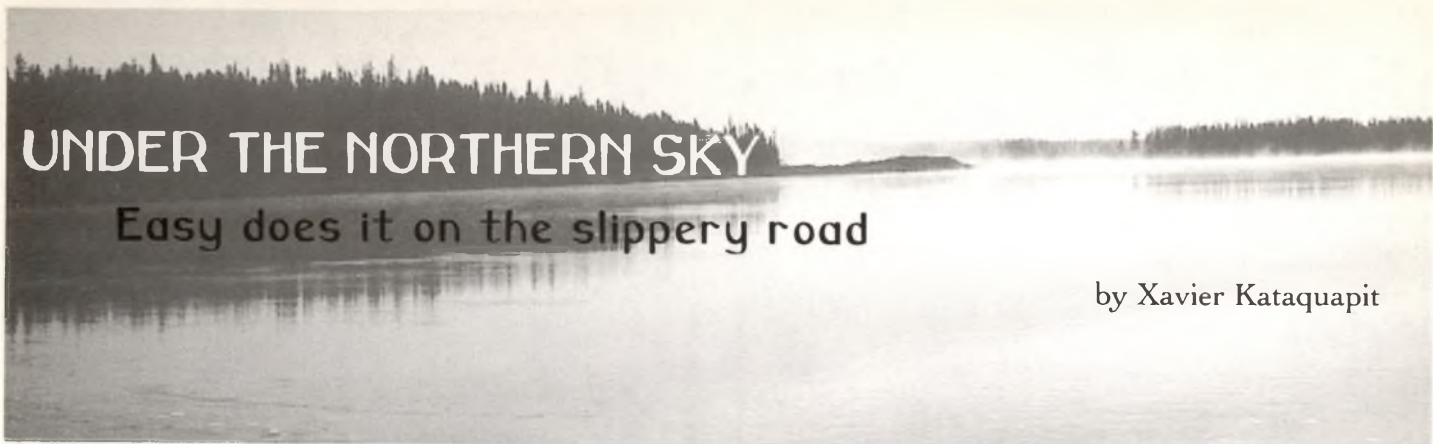
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# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## Easy does it on the slippery road

by Xavier Kataquapit

I took a short drive through town the other day to pick up a few groceries. I went to put the brakes on but to my surprise, my truck did not respond. Being a northerner, I quickly realized I was slowly gliding along on a sheet of ice. My mind raced back to my earlier training from a northern friend who taught me how to slow down and stop while on ice. I pumped the brakes repeatedly and carefully. The truck slowed down and then stopped.

On my ride back from the store, I slowed my speed and carefully drove along the town streets with the knowledge that every turn and corner was covered in slippery ice. Half my worry was on my own driving and my other concern rested on how well the other drivers on the road were coping with the ice.

As a northerner, I consider it normal this time of year to be driving on roads of ice and snow. Even at slow speed in town a collision can cause serious damage and injury while at highway speeds, an accident can be deadly. The first month of winter is usually the most dangerous. This is a period of the year when ice develops on the highway but there is not much snow coverage.

That means that if you happen to run off the road you will end up on hard ground, rocks or in water. Once there is enough snow coverage and the snow banks on along the road are built up things become less dangerous. Snow will slow down a vehicle that has gone out of control and many times it will act as a cushion. However, if you lose control on the icy highway and hit an oncoming car or truck then the result is horrible.

I first witnessed winter driving in the south when I was going to high school in Timmins and North Bay. I dreaded going into vehicles of any size because I saw many cars, trucks and buses of all shapes and sizes sliding, slipping and losing control on the roads and highways. I was familiar only with traffic in my home community of Attawapiskat. There were few roads in town and none that led out of the community. Most people got around on snow machines. To drive in the

populated south I basically had to relearn how to drive a vehicle from someone who had been doing it for many years.

Up north on the James Bay coast, driving is basically a slow activity compared to the speedy traffic in southern cities and towns. Short gravel roads pitted with pot holes, oversized rocks, loose gravel and fine dust never allows anyone to go very fast on remote First Nations.

The only thing on James Bay that comes close to driving in the south is the winter road. There are places where you can drive close to 100 kilometres an hour on the winter road but it is not recommended. There are no posted curves or bump signs and if you see an upcoming corner, it can either mean a long slow banking stretch of road or an abrupt turn. It is also possible to run into an ice pothole the size of a truck tire and that can throw a speeding vehicle right off the road. There are also many unposted dips, bumps and river crossings with broken ice, gaps and rises along this route. There are people who risk the high speeds but most tend to keep their speed down because of the understanding that if you are stuck in an accident in the middle of nowhere, there is no tow truck service, CAA service or nearby gas station or restaurant to call for help. You are very alone in the middle of the wilderness and usually it is extremely cold.

The most important thing I learned about driving on southern highways in the winter was to simply keep my speed down. I did this with some reluctance as these long stretches of highway beckoned my heavy foot. Now I realize that one of the fastest and safest ways to get to where I am going on icy roads in Northern Ontario is to slow down.

The second most important thing I learned was not to head out in the first place if the weather is really bad. I mean really is it worth your life to drive down the road in a blizzard? Now I am not saying I am a perfect driver. I have so much to learn. Still, these two tips have certainly been good for me over the years. I am more than happy to remind others that easy does it and think, think, think will get you to where you are going.



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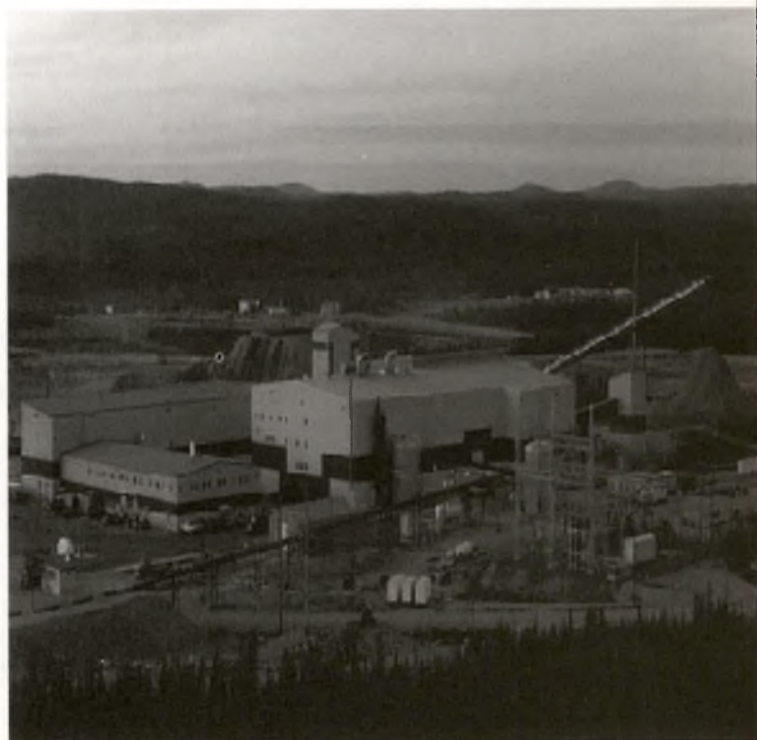
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Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS - 101

Wishing a belated birthday to my mom on November 18, and to my dad on November 10. Happy birthday to you both and many more to come. With lots of love from Charlotte, Clarence and Hayley-Ann I would like to wish Happy 2nd Birthday To Fredrick'sh Coonishish and many more to come have fun on your birthday Jaabaw Luv You Hugs & Kisses Caroline Snowboy all the way to Ottawa xoxo

We would like to wish Kathy & Freddy Coon-Come a happy? Anniversary on Nov,8,06. And may the good lord keep you both safe.and bless yous' with many many more happy Anniversaries. Who knows maybe someday next year we'll eat together,to bad, that it was-n't this time. With love; Nellie & Josie & Childeren XOX

We would like to wish a happy first Annivesary to Tammy & Wayne Mathias From Waswanipi and may god bless you with many many children keep up the good work and take of each other cook for your husband love your husband till your next anniversary Love auntie Nellie & Family xox from all the way at 69 poplar in Waswanipi

I would like to send out this belated Birthday greeting out

to Waylon Martinhunter who celebrated his birthday on November 13, 2006. I would also like to congratulate him and his teammates (OJAY HACKERS) for being the champions at the Ojay Tournament. It was a good game despite some of the fans but its alright...See how powerful prayers are? Anyways hope you enjoy your time here in Ojay and dont party too much. Keep ur chin up and think positive from Me (Pryscilla)XOX

I would like to wish a Happy 19th Birthday to my boyfriend Aben Mokoush on January 16, 2007. Also a Happy 17th Birthday to my cousin Travis Swappie on January 7, 2007. I hope you two have a WONDERFUL day! Love Amanda - xoxo-

I wanna say happy birthday to mary'sh B on december 3. Have fun and don't feed Jarrett too much of ur cake....lol

A Birthday Greetings going out to Mr. Pierre Picard all the way from chisasibi. He celebrated his birthday on the 4th of December. Happy Birthday Pierre and many many more n more birthdays to come...lol, have a blast! Once again, HAPPY BIRTHDAY. luv ya and miss you...With love from someone in Mistissini, Cynthia L. x0x0x

I wanted To wish a Happy B-day to my mom Emma Longchap on Dec.7/06. Happy b-day mom ,I love you so much.Hey I remember clearly when you came to see me when I was in intensive care I waved at you , I was really happy to see you guys I love you mom with all my heart. With love your baby daughter Rachel (Wask).

Sending birthdays greetings to my niece and nephew who were born 1 week apart. My niece Tatiana Kanatewat born on December 11/98 and my nephew Matthew Kanatewat born on December 18/98. turning both 8 years old, I wanna wish you both Happy 8th birthday enjoy your day kids don't ask so many toys for your birthdays, cause santa is just around the corner...lol. Tati, I still remember the day you were born with your boodoo cheeks how cute they were...lol. Be nice or santa will see you if you're naughty. Luv ya both always!!! aunty Judy

Happy Birthday to my Daddy Robert Kanatewat on December 4 who's turning 72, I think...lol. Enjoy your special day with mommy. When was the last time you celebrated your birthday with mommy!!!Luv ya always daddy! Judy

My mom Juliette T Neeposh had her birthday on the 1st of December, Happy Belated Birthday mama! nii chitwaasi-im Stacie. OH!! and of course Jasper too.

We would like to wish a Happy 1st Birthday to our Beautiful daughter Kyara-Teneisha Kanatewat ,on december 16 and many more to come.We love you so much! With lots of love,your mommy and daddy.

Happy 1st Birthday & Merry Christmas to my nephew Pierce Thaden Marquise Moses.He must be in Waswanipi with Daddy & Mommy. We Miss You and Love You Very Much. I cant believe your one!Life is so fast and I heard your walking.. Anjawboweh.. & Merry Christmas to Layla,Breton & whoever knows me.LOL Kisses & Hugz Love Auntie Veronica.M.(wask)

I want to take this time to wish a Happy Birthday to my nerd & I Love You Berry Much. (nii kiyah) Love, your beautiful nerd..haha

I Would Like To Wish My Nephew Ayden Loon A Happy 3rd Birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY AYDEN .N ALOT MORE BIRTHDAYS TO COME! LUV YOU So Much..... XOXOX. MERISSA.

Thesis Research  
The Paix des Braves Agreement of 2002: An Analysis of Cree Responses

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### George Oblin

Ph.D. Candidate, Communication Studies  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

I want to wish a happy 15th birthday to my daughter Angelina Fireman on December 12, 2006. Hope all your dreams and wishes come true. From your mom (Bonnie)in Gatineau.

## PERSONAL - 300

I would like to wish my friends at the Cree School Board schools a joyous and prosperous christmas and new years holiday. Marlene Matoush and family, Philomene Mianscum and family, William Kitchen and family, Nellie Coonishish and family, Bessie Tomatuk and family, Daisy House and family, Brenda Sam and family, Christine Cookish and family, Margaret Pachanos & family, Shirley Sandy and family, Nancy Sheshamush & family. Take care of you all and may the Good Lord bless you all as you celebrate with family and friends. Love you all from Margo M. Cooper in Ouje. From my Family to your Family.

Wishing a very Merry Christmas to these people, First, in Chisasibi to Ms. Stella-Jane Snowboy (as well as her 2 children Jayden and Lakeysa), Serena Picard, Cheyanne Picard Snowboy (as well as your children), Rena, Emile and Ken Picard, Ms. Deborah Rupert, Ms. Corrine Shash (to Kayla of course). In Waswanipi, Ms. Patricia Trapper, Ryan Trapper, Ms. Sonya Mianscum (Nikolai as well). In Eastmain, Ms. Priscilla Gilpin, Ms. Alexandria Gilpin (to your kids too) and I haven't heard you in a long time...lol (give me a call sumtime @ 3844). In Montreal Mr. Noah Cheechoo (THE Noah) lol. Merry Christmas to all of you and a Happy New

Year ... I know it's early to wish you all a Merry Christmas, cause I am pretty sure I won't be able to see you all on Christmas Day, So once again, Merry Christmas! and have a safe holidays. From someone all the way from Mississini, Ms.Cynthia Longchap

I am 44 years old, I moved from PA to Florida. I was on dialysis for 3 years, and looking for a kidney. I been so down, tired, not eating much, lose too much weight, and losing too much hair too, I used to have long hair, but now I have short hair. I really can't do much anymore. I would like to get back to my old self again. My blood type is O, so if anyone can help me, I would love it and be very pleased for helping me. Please help me. Thank You, Darla

Wishing a very Merry Christmas to my one and only, Johnny, you mean the world to me!. And also to my children Jaedon and JoAnne, I hope your Christmas wishes come true! Especially for you my baby girl...it's your first Christmas!!..Love You Guys with all my heart, LOVE MOM.

Christmas Greetings to my best friend Betty, Sam and the kids. I really hope things will turn out as you planned for the Holidays, and especially because it's both our daughters first Christmas`, we'll get to spend it together...and of course Jaedon and Kaedon will have a blast together!!Your Buddy Annie...Love You Guys! Merry Christmas to all my family, my mom Mary Lucy, my brothers Jimmy And Mish, Paul and Brenda, David and Isabelle, Isik and Joyce, Peter and Joan, Mike and Maggie, and my sister Susan and

Billy...and to all my nephews and nieces..Happy Holidays,From Annie ,Johnny and kids.

Wishing my mother Emily Salt a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!...and to my sisters Elizabeth and Willie, Mary Grace and Sam, Lorna and Russell, and Brenda and ?????, and Evelyn, my brothers Andrew, James, and Garry...and to all my nephews and nieces...Love Johnny, Annie and kids.

We would like to wish all our family members a Merry Christmas & the happiest New Year and may God bless you's all and keep you safe,safe throught out the year.MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL,HO! HO! ho!AND TO ALL TO HAVE A SAFE CHRISTMAS,note;PS,DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE CAUSE YOU'LL ONLY PAY A HEAFFTY PRICE YOUR LIFE OR YOUR LIECENCE.

I want to say HI! to meegun, sharon, gianna, ashley, amelia, miranda, vanessa, amanda, ben, nigel, mathias, dorianne, emma, hayley, brianna, angie, isaiah, kim, noreen, natasha, trisha, nicole c, nicole k, nick and so many other friend i love you all u r all the best and ill never forget you!!! i hope we never brake apart i hope you'll

still remeber me if i go to college lol IF!!..LMAO!.. well yeah i miss some of u cuz some of u dont live in ouje.. and i wonder if u can guess who i am..lol.. ok im pretty bored so eeyeah i also wanna say i love my family and FAKE FAMILY lol... ANGIE MY GRANDAUGHTER UR S T I L GROUNDED!!...lmao!.. well yeah bye

## Public Service Announcements - 400

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal now has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out the new website at: HYPERLINK "http://www.nwsm.info" www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868 or check out their website at: HYPERLINK I N K "http://www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca" www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of John Ottereyes of Chisasibi, James Bay region, Quebec, please contact S. Pyett collect at :613 -747-7800 x 3477.

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Dear *Nation* readers:

Santa knows if you've been naughty or nice  
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Return our calls, keep it real  
and everything will be swell.

'Tis the season to give and to receive  
but make sure you don't forget,

If you have trouble, give us a call,  
and we'll tell you not to fret.

We're here, at the ready,  
to write the unpredicted

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays  
from all of us here at *the Nation*!



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## ***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

*Each year the Creator covers the land in Eeyou Istchee with a wonderful blanket of white snow. We move closer to the stars above us and the cold air is clean and crisp.*

*Winter does not restrict our activities, as many people look forward to this season. Each season and year brings us something new and yet continues our lives as Eeyouch.*

*Wherever you may be this Christmas season, carry the warmth of happiness and joy of family in your hearts.*

*Wishing you safe and Happy Holidays.....*

*Grand Chief Matthew Mukash  
and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff*

***Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee***



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